

Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 10/6



Weather

High temperatures were well above normal, ranging from the low to upper 70s. Lows were generally in the mid 50s to low 60s. Lots of humidity for early October, with moderately heavy rainfall toward the end of the weekly period.

Waterfowl Abundance

Waterfowl numbers continue to build. Duck counts jumped substantially (over 12,000), primarily due to a big jump in ruddy ducks (up to 6500) and good numbers of shovelers. Goose numbers around 3000 birds.

Hunting Conditions

The earliest allowable hunting date on the Wastewater by Federal Framework would be October 16. Hunters are advised to call ahead (231-788-5055) at the end of this week to find out if a sufficient number of fields will be available.

Hunter Numbers

n/a

Waterfowl Harvest

n/a

What To Expect This Week

High temperatures are generally predicted to remain above normal for the week. We will continue to work with the farm staff and follow harvest and hay-cutting activity.

Upcoming Events

n/a



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 10/13



Weather

High temperatures continued to be well above normal, ranging from the low to mid 70s. Lows were generally in the mid 50s. Mostly sunny and very mild for early October, with only light periods of rainfall during the week.

Waterfowl Abundance

Waterfowl numbers continue to build. Duck counts increased (over 15,000), primarily due to growing numbers of ruddy ducks (up to 10000) and good numbers of shovelers. Goose numbers around 3000 birds.

Hunting Conditions

The Muskegon County Wastewater will not be opening on Wednesday, October 16 due to a shortage of harvested and huntable fields. Hunters are advised to call ahead (231-788-5055) at the end of this week to find out when a sufficient number of fields will be available.

Hunter Numbers

n/a

Waterfowl Harvest

n/a

What To Expect This Week

High temperatures are predicted to decline to more seasonable averages (daytime highs in the 50s). We will continue to work with the farm staff and try to open the unit for hunting as soon as possible.

Upcoming Events

n/a



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 10/20



Weather

Temperatures were near normal, with highs generally in the mid-upper 50s. Lows were generally in the mid 40s to low 50s. Periods of light rainfall came regularly throughout the week, with heavier rain-fall toward the end of the week.

Waterfowl Abundance

Waterfowl numbers continue to build. Duck counts increased (over 17,000), primarily due to growing numbers of ruddy ducks (up to 12000) and good numbers of shovelers. Goose numbers around 3500 birds.

Hunting Conditions

The Muskegon County Wastewater will be opening on Wednesday, October 23. Field availability is still limited, with positions only in the cut hay and harvested soybean fields. At this writing, only 26 hunting party positions are expected to be available.

Hunter Numbers

n/a

Waterfowl Harvest

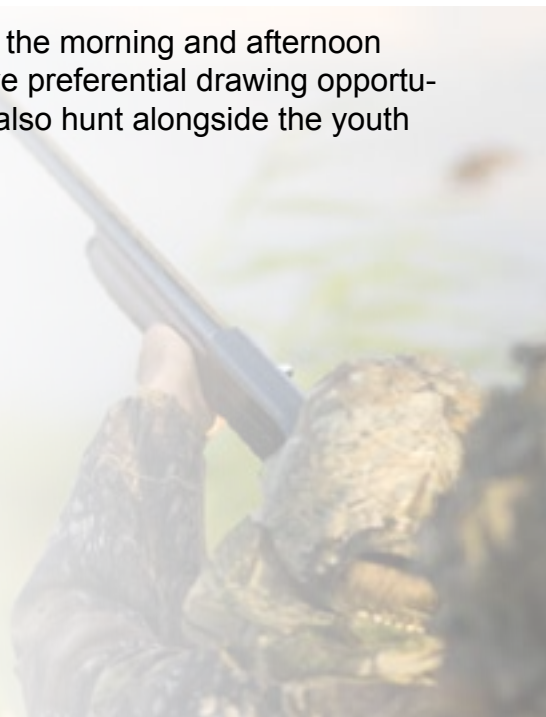
n/a

What To Expect This Week

The coolest temperatures of the season, so far, are expected for this week, with daytime highs in the 40s and the possibility of the first snow of the fall season. We will continue to work with the farm staff and try to open more field positions as they become available.

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 27, will be the annual Wastewater youth hunt in both the morning and afternoon hunts. All hunting parties with a youth hunter 16 or younger will receive preferential drawing opportunities for available positions. Adults (no more than two in a party) can also hunt alongside the youth hunter(s). Maximum party size is still 4 hunters.



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 10/27



Weather

Temperatures were below normal, with highs generally in the mid 40s to 50 degrees. Lows were generally in the mid 30s to 40 degrees. Periods of light rainfall, wet snow, and sleet fell occasionally throughout the week, with high winds toward the end of the week.

Waterfowl Abundance

Waterfowl numbers stayed high. Duck counts remained over 17,000, primarily due to large numbers of ruddy ducks (up to 11500) and good numbers of shovelers. Goose numbers around 3300 birds – slightly below average for late October.

Hunting Conditions

The Muskegon County Wastewater opened on Wednesday, October 23, with 27 hunting positions in the cut hay and harvested soybean fields. Hunter turnout was light.

Hunter Numbers

22 parties and 55 hunters participated in the opening day hunt.

Waterfowl Harvest

8 geese harvested.

What To Expect This Week

The cool temperatures are expected to continue, but moderating toward mid-week. We will continue to work with the farm staff and try to open more field positions as they become available.

Upcoming Events

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 11/03



Weather

Temperatures were near normal for most of the past week, with highs generally in the 50s. A two-day warm-up occurred around Halloween with temperatures in the 60s, high winds, and over 1 inch of rain, followed by dropping temperatures again.

Waterfowl Abundance

Waterfowl numbers stayed high last week. Duck counts remained over 17,000, primarily due to large numbers of ruddy ducks (around 11500) and good numbers of shovelers. However, mallard counts were on the low side. Goose numbers rose to approximately 4200 birds.

Hunting Conditions

Crop harvest remained behind schedule, as soybean harvest went into the third week. Additional hay fields went through a final cut and became available. The number of hunting positions rose to approximately 54. As of yet, no corn harvest, although it may begin this week, if the weather cooperates.

Hunter Numbers

After three days of hunting, there have been 123 hunter trips. Turnout continues to be on the low side.

Waterfowl Harvest

A total of 25 geese and 1 mallard have been harvested. The duck hunting has been very slow, with mallard counts below average.

What To Expect This Week

We will continue to work with the farm staff and try to open more field positions as they become available.

Upcoming Events

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 11/10



Weather

Temperatures were near seasonal averages for most of the past week, with moderate rainfall (approximately 1 inch) mid-week.

Waterfowl Abundance

Waterfowl numbers declined last week. Duck counts dropped 11,000+, primarily due to fewer ruddy ducks (around 4600). Mallard counts increased slightly. Goose numbers rose to approximately 4500 birds.

Hunting Conditions

Crop harvest remained behind schedule, but soybean harvest was finished and corn harvest began. All the hay fields are now finished. The number of hunting positions rose to approximately 76.

Hunter Numbers

After 6 days of hunting this season, there have been 195 hunter trips. Turnout continues to be on the low side.

Waterfowl Harvest

A total of 42 geese and 20 ducks have been harvested.

What To Expect This Week

We will continue to work with the farm staff and try to open more field positions as they become available.

Upcoming Events

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 11/17



Weather

Temperatures were below average till approximately mid-week, then warmed up to near 60 degrees by the end of the week. Heavy rainfall (over 1 inch) at the end of the weekly period.

Waterfowl Abundance

Waterfowl numbers declined last week. Duck counts dropped due to fewer ruddy ducks (around 300). Mallard counts increased, and are near the highest for the season. Goose numbers rose to approximately 4800 birds.

Hunting Conditions

Crop harvest remained behind schedule, but corn harvest and tillage increased. The number of hunting positions rose to approximately 77.

Hunter Numbers

As we finish the first phase of the Wastewater hunt, there have been 221 hunter trips. Turnout continues to be on the low side.

Waterfowl Harvest

A total of 49 geese and 22 ducks have been harvested.

What To Expect This Week

We will continue to work with the farm staff and open more field positions as they become available.

Upcoming Events

The Muskegon Wastewater will reopen on December 1

Other Comments:

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 11/24



Weather

Large windstorms and heavy rain events went through most of the West Michigan area early last week (November 17 and 18). Temperatures were slightly below average most of the week, then dropped to the lowest temperatures of the season as we approached the next weekend (November 23 and 24), with 1-3 inches of snow in the lakeshore counties.

Waterfowl Abundance

Overall, waterfowl numbers declined last week. Duck numbers fell, while goose numbers rose to approximately 5800 birds, the highest counts of the season.

Hunting Conditions

Crop harvest remained behind schedule, but corn harvest and tillage increased.

Hunter Numbers

As we wait to start the second phase of the Wastewater hunt, there have been 221 hunter trips. Turnout has been on the low side.

Waterfowl Harvest

A total of 49 geese and 22 ducks have been harvested.

What To Expect This Week

We will continue to work with the farm staff and open more field positions as they become available.

Upcoming Events

The Muskegon Wastewater will reopen on December 1.

Other Comments

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 12/1



Weather

Cold weather settled into the area, and temperatures were below average most of the week. 4-5 inches of new snow fell on the Wastewater unit.

Waterfowl Abundance

Overall, waterfowl numbers declined last week. Duck numbers fell to approximately 3000 birds, while goose numbers also declined.

Hunting Conditions

Corn harvest is almost completed (only 1 more to go), but tillage activities continue in the stubble fields.

Hunter Numbers

As we start the second phase of the Wastewater hunt, there have been 221 hunter trips.

Waterfowl Harvest

A total of 49 geese and 22 ducks have been harvested, as we reopened the December portion of the Wastewater season.

What To Expect This Week

We will continue to work with the farm staff to monitor changing field conditions.

Upcoming Events

The Wastewater hunt runs through Sunday, December 22, with hunts on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Other Comments:

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 12/8



Weather

Variable temperatures this week – cold to begin, with a 2 day warm-up mid-week, and very cold temperatures at the end (lows in the teens). Rain mid-week, with snow showers at the end of the period.

Waterfowl Abundance

Overall, waterfowl numbers increased slightly. Mallard numbers reached a seasonal high at approximately 1000 birds, while goose numbers also increase (5700).

Hunting Conditions

Corn harvest and tillage is finally completed on most of the unit.

Hunter Numbers

Hunter turnout continues to be low, with 269 hunter trips so far. We are averaging about 8 hunting parties per hunt.

Waterfowl Harvest

Goose harvest stands at 74 for the season and duck harvest at 75. The December 4 hunt showed better success, with 17 hunters taking 15 geese and 34 ducks (mostly mallards).

What To Expect This Week

The last day for duck hunting on the Wastewater this season is Sunday, December 8.

Upcoming Events

The Wastewater hunt runs through Sunday, December 22, with hunts on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Other Comments:

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 12/15



Weather

Very cold temperatures this week – 10-15 degrees below average, with significant snowfall. The Muskegon Wastewater lagoons are frozen again.

Waterfowl Abundance

Overall, waterfowl numbers dropped substantially. Shovelers are mostly gone, mallards and black ducks declined, and goose numbers dropped from over 5000 to less than 1000.

Hunting Conditions

Very difficult conditions – lots of snow in the fields and very few birds.

Hunter Numbers

Hunter turnout continues to be low. We are averaging about 2-3 hunting parties per hunt.

Waterfowl Harvest

One goose was taken during the weekly period. Duck hunting is now closed on the Wastewater.

What To Expect This Week

With the current weather conditions unlikely to change very soon, hunter turnout and harvest is expected to remain low.

Upcoming Events

The last day of hunting at the Muskegon Wastewater is Sunday, December 22.

Other Comments:

N/A



Muskegon CW Manager's Update

2013 Season - Week of 12/22



Weather

Cold temperatures this week, with snow flurries during the first half of the week and frozen rain/ice from Friday the 20th through the early part of Sunday the 22nd. The Muskegon Wastewater lagoons are completely frozen.

Waterfowl Abundance

Overall, waterfowl numbers remained low. Mallards and black ducks declined, and goose numbers fell below 500.

Hunting Conditions

Very difficult conditions – lots of snow in the fields and very few birds.

Hunter Numbers

Hunter turnout continued to be low. Due to severe weather conditions, there was no hunter participation for the December 18 hunt and the December 22 AM hunt. For the season, we finished with 324 hunter trips.

Waterfowl Harvest

No geese (0) were taken during the weekly period. The final harvest totals were 89 geese and 92 ducks.

What To Expect This Week

Waterfowl surveys continue on the Wastewater, but the managed hunt is now closed.

Upcoming Events

The last day of hunting at the Muskegon Wastewater is Sunday, December 22.

Other Comments:

N/A

